

a² (ΔCD) that is approximately 3.5 times greater than the center-to-center separation of bonding points in the MD (ΔMD), nonwoven fabrics of various weights (gsm or grams per square meter) were prepared and two inch wide by five inch long samples were tested for both elongation and tensile strength utilizing the EDANA test method ERT 20.2-89. The tests yielded the following results:

Basis Weight	10 gsm	15 gsm	20 gsm
MD tensile N	18.19	20.25	27.95
MD elongation %	75.83	70.40	71.66
CD tensile N	8.50	11.48	16.07
CD elongation %	88.75	92.51	94.67

Rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 6, as follows:

While the embodiments described hereinabove utilize bonding points 20 which are circular 22 or oval 24, it will be appreciated that a wide variety of shapes and configurations may be used for the bonding points 20. Indeed, bonding points of different shapes and configurations may be used on a single fabric. Similarly, while a variety of non-symmetrical bonding configurations have been shown in the various embodiments, it will be appreciated that other non-symmetrical configurations may be used instead. The critical limitation is that the shaping and configuration of the bonding points and/or the particular bonding pattern create a fabric which meets the goal of the present invention - namely, a high percent elongation in the first direction (typically the CD) relative to a low percent elongation in the second direction (typically the MD).

Rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 18, as follows:

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a4

The nonwoven fabric of the present invention is preferably formed by the selective bonding of substantially randomly oriented fibers initially providing a uniform fiber density in both the MD and CD so that any distinction between the MD and the CD properties arises out of the selective bonding process of the present invention. However, the selective bonding process of the present invention may also be applied to a nonwoven fabric which does not have a uniform fiber density in both the MD and the CD. See the inventor's copending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/373,826, filed August 13, 1999 entitled "Nonwoven Fabric With High CD Elongation And Method Of Making Same"). Where the non-uniform fiber density of the initial nonwoven fabric promotes a greater percent elongation in the CD than the MD, the use of the selective bonding pattern merely enhances the elongation ratio (that is, increases the ratio of elongation in the CD to elongation in the MD). Where the non-uniform density of the initial nonwoven fabric promotes a greater percent elongation in the MD than in the CD, the selective bonding of the present invention must be effective to overcome the initial bias and still cause the fabric to have a greater percent elongation in the CD than in the MD.

Rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 14, as follows:

a5

An unexpected attribute of the fabric is an increased bulk density resulting in enhanced softness compared to symmetrically bonded nonwovens. In one example, a symmetrically bonded 15 gsm polypropylene spunbond fabric had one-half the thickness compared to a 15 gsm polypropylene spunbond fabric when bonded with the non-symmetrical pattern described herein.